WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   initiating a game session of indeterminate duration;

3   determining a game variable defining the game session;

4   determining a terminating value associated with the game variable;

5   determining a current value of the game variable; and

6   terminating the game session based on the terminating value and the current

7   value.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, in which determining the current value comprises:

2   determining the current value based on an outcome of the game session.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, in which the game session is not defined by a

2   predetermined number of handle pulls.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, in which the game session is not defined by a

2   predetermined period of time.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, in which the game session is not defined by a

2   predetermined number of winning outcomes.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, in which the game session includes a plurality of

2   plays of a game.

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1   7.   A method comprising:

2   determining at least one game parameter that is associated with a game;

3   for each at least one game parameter, determining a respective terminating

4   condition that is associated with the game parameter;

5   initiating a flat rate play session of the game;

6   determining if at least one terminating conditions is satisfied; and

7   if at least one terminating conditions is satisfied,

8   terminating the flat rate play session,

9   in which the at least one game parameter corresponds to at least one of:

10   a number of game elements,

11   a number of occurrences of a game symbol, and

12   a plurality of game elements collected by a player.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2   determining an outcome of the game.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, in which determining if the terminating condition is

2   satisfied comprises:

3   determining if the terminating condition is satisfied based on the outcome.

1   10.   A method comprising:

2   determining at least one game parameter that is associated with a game;

3   for each at least one game parameter, determining a respective terminating

4   condition that is associated with the game parameter;

5   initiating a flat rate play session of the game;

6   determining if at least one terminating conditions is satisfied; and

7   if at least one terminating conditions is satisfied,

8   terminating the flat rate play session,

9   in which the at least one game parameter corresponds to at least one of:

10   a probability,

11   a probability of a player entering a bonus round, and

12   a rate of expiration of a predetermined game symbol.

1   11.   A method comprising:

2   initiating a game session, the game session including a plurality of handle

3   pulls;

4   determining a game parameter that is associated with a first stage of the

5   game session;

6   determining a terminating value that is associated with the game parameter;

7   determining an outcome of the first stage;

8   determining a current value of the game parameter; and

9   initiating a second stage of the game session based on the terminating value

10   and the current value.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, in which the first stage comprises a primary game.

1   13.   The method of claim 11, in which the second stage comprises a bonus

2   round.

1   14.   The method of claim 11, in which determining the current value comprises:

2   determining the current value based on the outcome.

1   15.   The method of claim 11, in which the game session is a prepaid session.

1   16.   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   terminating the first stage based on the terminating value and the current

3   value.

1   17.   A method comprising:

2   initiating a game session that includes a plurality of outcomes;

3   generating at least one outcome, in which

4   each outcome includes a plurality of instances selected from a set of

5   slot machine symbols, and

6   the set of slot machine symbols includes a plurality of

7   predetermined slot machine symbols;

8   adjusting a running count based on occurrences of the at least one

9   predetermined slot machine symbol in the at least one outcome; and

10   terminating the game session based on the running count.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising:

2   determining a bonus payout based on the running count.

1   19.   A method comprising:

2   determining a game parameter value that is associated with a video poker

3   game;

4   determining a terminating value that is associated with the game parameter

5   value;

6   initiating a session of the video poker game, the session including a

7   plurality of hand outcomes;

8   determining if the game parameter value is equal to the terminating value;

9   and

10   if the game parameter value is equal to the terminating value,

11   terminating the session.

1   20.   The method of claim 19, in which the session is a flat rate play session of

2   the video poker game.

1   21.   The method of claim 19, in which the terminating value corresponds to a

2   rank of a card.

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1   22.   The method of claim 19, in which the terminating value corresponds to a

2   suit of a card.

1   23.   The method of claim 19, in which the terminating value corresponds to at

2   least one card.

1   24.   The method of claim 19, in which the terminating value corresponds to a

2   predetermined hand outcome.